

Joint Project Agreement between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) For Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Integrated Coastal and Ocean Resources Management

Basic Instrument

The main instrument is a Joint Project Agreement (JPA) between NOAA and the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF). The JPA is a scientific and technical cooperation agreement in integrated coastal and ocean resources management.

Member Nations

Republic of Korea and United States

Meetings

The parties meet annually, generally alternating annually between the United States or Korea to review accomplishments and plan cooperative projects for the following year. In addition, the subject Working Groups of the JPA meet separately on an annual or biennial basis to progress cooperative research projects.

U.S. Representation

The NOAA lead of the JPA is the Director of the NOS Office of International Programs (currently Clement Lewsey). There are 5 Working Groups: Integrated Coastal Management, Marine Observation and Data Information, Sea Grant Cooperation, Fisheries, and Aquaculture.

NMFS has representation on the Joint Committee through F/IA and Alaska Fisheries Science Center.

Description

The JPA provides for exchange of knowledge, data, and information between Korea and the United States to improve the application of sound marine resource management principles and assessment of global marine habitat status and trends. It facilitates communications and exchange of expertise and information between NOAA and MLTM-MIFAFF.

The projects in the Agreement are run by four Panels. The Panels for the 2014 projects are the (1) Integrated Coastal Management, (2) Marine Observations and Data Management Panel, (3) Fisheries Panel and (4) Aquaculture Panel. Each Panel has a Korean and U.S. lead. Each Panel runs agreed to cooperative research projects. Each project has a Korean and U.S. principal investigator. The National Ocean Service's Office of International Programs has the overall NOAA lead. NOAA Fisheries has the lead for two of the four Panels. The JPA is unique in the sense that direct project funding is provided by the Korean side. For FY2014, the Korean side provided \$815k to fund the projects. NOAA provides in-kind resources that are equivalent to the dollar funding through involvement of personnel and use of research equipment and facilities.

Activities of the Fisheries Panel

NOAA Fisheries is involved mainly through two Panels of the JPA – the Fisheries Panel and the Aquaculture Panel. The Alaska Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, has the lead for the Fisheries Panel. The Panel's research projects for 2015 are on (1) Joint research on climate induced changes in fisheries and ecosystem management, (2) Improvement of survey gear technology – development of an acoustic bottom typing system, (3) Fisheries monitoring through science observers, (4) Applications of JPA research to Korean fisheries management and fisheries resources rebuilding, (5) Stock structure of Pacific cod (*Gadus macrocephalus*) in Korean waters: a microchemical and genetic approach, (6) Fishing impacts on corals and vulnerable marine ecosystems, and (7) a cooperative research panel meeting.

Activities of the Aquaculture Panel

The projects for the Aquaculture Panel for 2015 are: (1) Meeting of the Joint Coordination Panel for Aquaculture Cooperation, (2) Fish Culture and Production: Energy Use and Life Cycle Assessment of Recalculating Aquaculture Systems, (3) Cooperative Research on the Production of Highly Valued Oyster, (4) Technical Approach on Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture, (5) Incorporation of Plant Proteins into Marine Finfish Feeds: Alternative feeds to reduce fish meal and fish oil use in aquaculture feeds, and (6) Eco-friendly shrimp culture technology. The aquaculture panel is currently looking for a US Co-Chair.

New Project under the Administration of the JPA.

In an effort to address NMFS' interest in having a more structured and consistent dialogue with the Korean Ministry of Oceans & Fisheries (MOF), a new project to focus on fisheries management collaborations was developed and approved [trial effort] for 2015. This project aims to serve as an annual forum in which the US & Korea can discuss and develop collaboration on fisheries management issues. As there have been greater bilateral interactions on fisheries management, both sides have recognized a need for a more structured mechanism to discuss fisheries topics that are not strictly science (and therefore fall under the Fisheries Panel co-chaired by Low Lee LOH on the NOAA side).

The forum will generally discuss the following themes: (1) RFMO data sharing/quality, compliance and management, (2) Capacity Building/overseas development work (planning & coordination) in 3rd world countries of shared interest, (3) Non-specific RFMO management issues discussion (e.g. mitigation of IUU, control of nationals), (4) sharing fisheries management challenges & successes, and (5) other topics that are of interest to the US & Korea. The points of contacts will, based on respective agency input, put forth ~2 topics to discuss. The meeting will reflect pressing issues as identified by each country and/or activities that require face-to-face planning. Based on those topics, participants should be chosen. Michael Abbey & Kim Jeehye (MOF International Cooperation Division) will lead the project.

Next Meeting

The two countries have scheduled the annual Joint Project Agreement meeting for July 2015 in Korea to review accomplishments and plan cooperative projects for the following year. The Fisheries Panel and the Aquaculture Panel are also scheduled to meet in June 2014 to report, discuss and plan scientific research and cooperation.

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